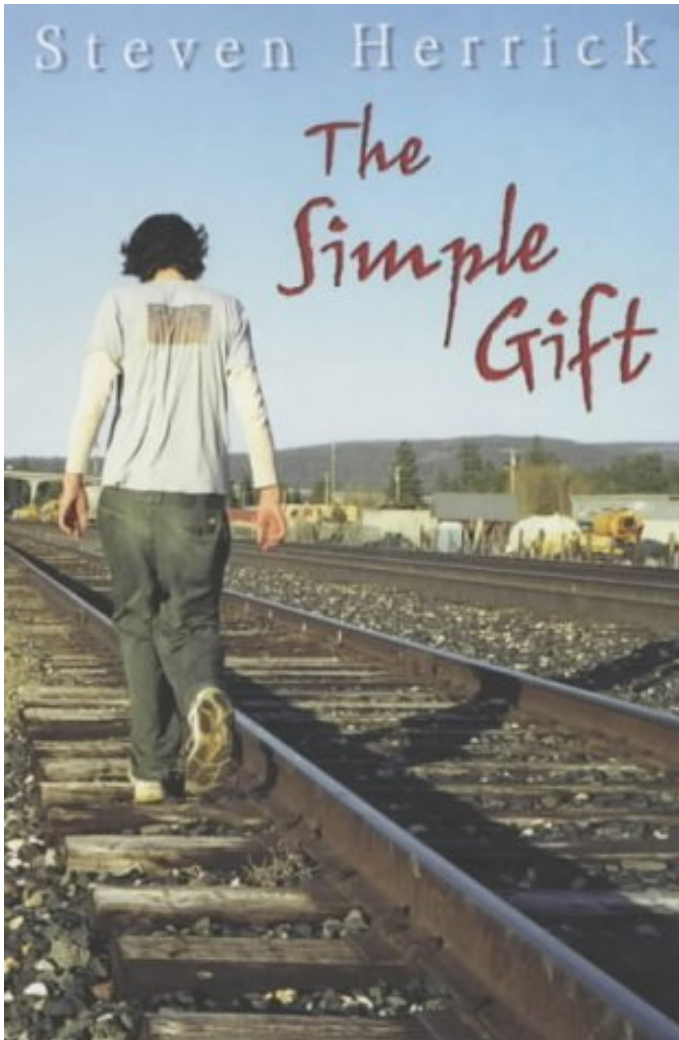


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**Steven Herrick**

**The Simple Gift**



Title: The Simple Gift

Author: Steven Herrick

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 352

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 1405208546

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 5 MB

Download: allowed

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## Description

"Sure there's hope in the world even for hobos like us." Away from Dad and his bottle. Away from school, which taught him nothing. Billy Lockett hitches a ride on a freight train. He's heading for the sunset. Yes, he's homeless but now he has a future...

## Insightful reviews

Laura: *The Simple Gift* is an understated but emotionally involving book about a teenage boy living in rural Australia. He runs away from home to escape his abusive father and winds up homeless, sleeping in an old train carriage. The boy forms two touching relationships: the first is with an older homeless man who becomes a surrogate father to him, the second is with a bright teenage girl from a well-off family who longs for nothing more than to leave town. This second relationship blossoms into romance which is equal parts sweet and realistic. The author doesn't condescend to his teenage audience: the characters are shown to be mature, competent and capable of making decisions for themselves. These days many books featuring young adult romance are totally sanitised so it's nice to read one that acknowledges that most teenagers do have sex.

By writing a book about character who is homeless, the author asks readers to look beyond stereotypes and preconceptions and remember that people are people - regardless of their living arrangements. The book doesn't glorify homelessness. It very subtly reminds us that people often have complicated reasons for winding up where they do and they deserve empathy.

I can't conclude this review without mentioning one other striking feature of this book: it's a verse novel, composed entirely of non-rhyming poems. This may seem unusual or odd but it doesn't intrude at all on the story. This book shows that poetry doesn't have to be difficult or boring; it's just a way to arrange words on the page.

Maria: This is the first verse novel I've ever read. And the first printed book in almost forever. I'll welcome more, especially from this author. What an absolute pleasure to sit down to a heartwarming story, simply told and brief enough to devour in one sitting.

I don't know how he does it with such brevity, and in such straightforward language, but Stephen Herrick brought three beautiful characters to life for me, conjuring flesh and blood off the printed page. He made me care for them deeply, mourn with them for past loss and pain and fervently hope for a future full of hope.

Thank you Jessica! For your discretion and patience when I forgot about this treasure of yours, so long hidden under the tall pile on my bedside table. I feel utterly selfish now for hoarding this for so long, but so glad you shared. This little gem will make its way back to you post-haste!!

Joy (joyous reads): I've been a fan of books written in verse ever since I discovered Lisa Schroeder. They're typically fast reads – short but powerful, nonetheless.

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Well, *The Simple Gift* was no different. It's about Billy, who chose to be homeless rather than remain at home and be his own father's punching bag. He ended up in a Freight Yard where he met Old Bill, a fellow hobo. He also found Caitlin, a rich girl who found what she was looking for in the person of Billy. Though all three characters were unforgettable on their own rights, my heart twinges for Old Bill. The story of how he lost his family was heartbreakingly sad. Not to take anything away from Billy's troubled family life, but to read Old Bill's downfall and the choices he had to make that led him there is something that I will think about for a while.

There were questionable elements to the plot lines but I chose to ignore them. Am I being an unfair reviewer? Perhaps. But sometimes, I'd rather read stories of hope and happy endings rather than hardships and endless suffering.

Hannah Reed: I needed to learn this publication in excessive school, and it in truth made going to English type much more exciting. earlier than analyzing this e-book i used to be a kind of demanding those that judged something to do with poetry, yet this e-book switched over me right into a verse poetry lover and now I do attempt to learn extra poetry, even though this booklet nonetheless continues to be my favourite. Steven Herrick manages to show such a lot of messages throughout the phrases he uses, and the characters he writes are relocating and compelling to read. the straightforward reward is a fantastically written and heartwarming book, and that i love sitting down and re-reading it.

Mands: the straightforward present through Steven Herrick includes 3 major characters: 16 12 months outdated Billy Lockett who leaves his alcoholic father and results in the fictitious city of Bendarat. Caitlin Holmes, a seventeen 12 months outdated who can't wait to flee to university, and outdated Bill, homeless by way of selection and attempting his most sensible to put out of your mind the past. These 3 characters sound so various yet basically they're all stable people. Billy is helping previous invoice to pay off the kindness he's been proven within the past. Caitlin seems previous Billy's homelessness and sees the boy he really is, and previous invoice is helping them either to make up for his past. i used to be thoroughly stuck up of their stories, every one of them felt so real. For the sort of brief book, the tale has this type of robust message and that's elevated end result of the layout of verse - so few phrases but they communicate so much. an ideal publication for teenagers and adults. Thank you to the glorious humans at UQP for my assessment copy.

Michael Santiago: the writer of the straightforward reward is Steven Herrick and it truly is 188 pages long. The name made me ask yourself what "the gift" is and why it will topic to the typical lifetime of poeple. It hooked me to learn the book. i feel the identify does healthy the which means of the boook simply because "the easy gift" is anything that the most personality has continually wanted and not acquired until eventually now. On web page 144, Bill, Caitlin, and previous invoice had simply comprehensive having an immense dinner and conversating they've got enjoyed. they'd any such stable time previous invoice says "I stroll domestic to my carriage and examine the best way to pay off them for his or her uncomplicated gift". in line with Steven Herrick, the easy present is the resource of happiness. The publication is a drama. The 3 major characters are Billy, Caitlin, and previous Bill. Billy is who ran clear of his abusive father

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and he's simply attempting to survive. Caitlin, however, is who's going to college with solid prosperous mom and dad who deal with her well. previous invoice is a grown guy who spent nearly all of his existence as a hobo. whilst Billy runs away, and meets Caitlin at her job, McDonald's, they turn into friends. Then he meets outdated Bill, they usually turn into pals also. Billy falls in love with Caitlin yet is stopped by way of the police and is requested questions. He cannot depart to a different city due to his love for Caitlin so previous Bill helps out. I cherished the story-line of the publication yet i think like no longer adequate occurred for me to imagine it used to be amazing. nearly every thing had to find out about the canopy of the book. i believe if anything extra severe occurred like Billy by some means checking out whatever approximately his father dying, i might be extra simply because he must opt for if he may still see his father whereas he's alive or not. anything extra severe in that cateogeoery must have been added.

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